

PUBLIC

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Imminent execution

16 November 2007

SAUDI ARABIA **Sheikh Mastan Alias Mohammed Salim (m) aged 30, married with one child**

Hamza Abu Bakir, (m) aged 47, married with four children

The two Indian nationals named above are currently detained in al-Dammam Prison in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. They are reportedly at risk of imminent execution. They were arrested in January 2004 on charges of drug possession.

In June 2006, they were convicted and sentenced to death by a court in al-Dammam. However, they were not legally represented and very little is known about their trial except that their conviction and sentence are said to have been upheld on appeal and their execution may be imminent.

They are reported to have been visited only once since their arrest and that was by a representative of the Indian Consulate on 29 May 2007.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Saudi Arabia applies the death penalty for a wide range of offences. Court proceedings fall far short of international standards for fair trial, and take place behind closed doors.

Defendants normally do not have formal representation by a lawyer, and in many cases are not informed of the progress of legal proceedings against them. They may be convicted solely on the basis of confessions obtained under duress, torture or deception. The rate of executions in Saudi Arabia has recently increased sharply, and the authorities have executed at least 140 people so far this year, although the true figure may be much higher. Death sentences are usually carried out by beheading.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or English or your own language:

- urging the King to halt the execution of Sheikh Mastan Alias Mohammed Salim and Hamza Abu Bakir;
- appealing to the King to commute the death sentences against Sheikh Mastan Alias Mohammed Salim and Hamza Abu Bakir and all of all those on death row in Saudi Arabia as a matter of urgency with a view to the abolition of the death penalty;
- seeking clarification of the steps being taken to enable Sheikh Mastan Alias Mohammed Salim and Hamza Abu Bakir and others to exercise effectively the rights to judicial review and to seek a pardon.

APPEALS TO:

King Abdullah Bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud
The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques
Office of His Majesty the King
Royal Court, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: (via Ministry of the Interior) +966 1 403 1185

Salutation: Your Majesty

His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
P.O. Box 2933
Airport Road, Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 403 1185
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nasseriya Street
Riyadh 11124
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 403 0645
Salutation: Your Royal Highness

COPIES TO:

Mr Turki bin Khaled Al-Sudairy
President
Human Rights Commission
PO Box 58889, Riyadh 11515
King Fahad Road, Building No.373
Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Fax: +966 1 461 2061

and to diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.